THE SIXTH DAY

Monday, the 28th February, 1927.

The Assembly met again at 11 A. M. on the 28th February 1927.

88. Agriculture in South Travancore.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) said that agriculture in South Travancore was in a deplorable condition and that the yield from paddy lands was decreasing year by year. One of its chief causes was that the water from Pechippara was causing damage by percolation to the old wet lands in the area commanded by it. Secondly, all the irrigation storage tanks were being dried up during the summer season. There were also no proper channels for draining the surplus water from the tanks. There existed no facilities for taking the water from those tanks for the use of the adjoining lands. During the rainy season, the accumulation of rain water and Kodayar water caused breaches of most tanks and consequent loss of crops on adjoining lands. As instances in point, the member referred to the *Keralapuram Perunirkulam* and the *Nullikulam* in the Tuckala *pakuthi*. On account of breaches in the two tanks, the adjoining lands had deteriorated. In order to avoid the recurrence of similar breaches, the irrigation tanks and the channels leading to and from them should be maintained in proper condition.

Another obstacle in the development of agriculture was the paucity of cattle. The ryots had not got an adequate number of cattle to plough their own lands. They were also not able to collect cattle manure. The main reason for the paucity of cattle was the want of grazing grounds. Bullocks for ploughing the lands had to be purchased for each crop but for want of proper grazing grounds they became useless for the next crop. In order to improve such a state of affairs, adequate grazing grounds should be reserved in each *pakuthi*.

There was great difficulty in obtaining green leaf manure. All the lands from which green leaf manure used to be gathered in olden days had been converted into wet lands. For the beneficial enjoyment of wet lands in the collection of green leaf manure, etc., reserved forests should be set apart and the extents of land so set apart should be notified in the *Government Gazette*. The area under wet cultivation had increased, while the difficulties to obtain manure had grown.

Lastly, the member said that during the late war a large quantity of paddy was exported from South Travancore year after year. But Nanjinad which could produce such surplus food stuffs was now in a bad way.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, the Government have already realised the advisability of examining the need for conserving and improving the storage tanks in the part of the country you referred to.

89. Needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group I*) said that, although the Government had appointed a special staff for the restoration of minor irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk, the restoration work was not being done promptly. Instructions should therefore be issued for the prompt execution of the works. The slow progress was partly due to the fact that the contracts for them were given to contractors of other taluks. It would be more advantageous if local co-operative societies were given such contracts.

The Kodayar Right Bank Channel, if constructed, would be most useful to the inhabitants of the Neyyattinkara taluk. The Government had originally promised to construct the channel but for some reason or other had given up the scheme. The matter should be reconsidered.

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